



US Army Corps  
Of Engineers  
Wilmington District

# PUBLIC NOTICE

Issue Date: January 19, 2007  
Comment Deadline: February 20, 2007  
Corps Action ID #: SAW-2007-157-164

All interested parties are hereby advised that the Wilmington District, Corps of Engineers (Corps) has received an application for work within jurisdictional waters of the United States. Specific plans and location information are described below and shown on the attached plans. This Public Notice and all attached plans are also available on the Wilmington District Web Site at [www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands](http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands)

***Applicant:***

North Carolina Department of Transportation  
Project Development & Environmental Analysis  
1548 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1548

**Authority**

The Corps will evaluate this application and decide which alternative represents the Least Environmentally Damaging Practicable Alternative (LEDPA) pursuant to applicable procedures of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act of 1899.

**Location**

The proposed TIP project R-2823 involves construction of the Rocky Mount Northern Connector on new location in Nash County. The project will be a four-lane median divided facility that extends from SR 1604 (Hunter Hill Road) to US 301. The proposed project is approximately 4.9 miles long. The proposed project is located in Hydrologic Cataloging Unit 03020101 of the Tar-Pamlico River Basin.

**Existing Site Conditions**

Land use in the project area is primarily low-density residential, farmland and undeveloped. However, there are several areas of higher-density commercial or industrial uses. Several residential subdivisions and mobile home parks are located in the project area, as well. A new subdivision is under construction along Woodruff Road. A

large 1,000 home golf course community is under construction near Bishop Road and US 301.

The topography in the study area is characterized as rather flat, with low, gently rolling hills. The study area is located in the Coastal Plain physiographic province of North Carolina.

### **Applicant's Stated Purpose**

The purpose of this project is to improve system linkage and reduce travel time between existing residential areas in western Rocky Mount and existing industrial areas in northern Rocky Mount. The purpose and need for this project was agreed upon by federal, state, and local agency representatives on May 15, 2002.

### **Project Description**

The following description of work is taken from data provided by the applicant. The proposed project is approximately 4.9 miles long and is located to the north of Rocky Mount. The proposed Rocky Mount Northern Connector will be constructed as a four-lane median divided roadway with 12-foot lanes and 8-foot grass shoulders (4 feet paved). A 30-foot median is proposed for the project. A design speed of 60 MPH is also proposed for the project. A total right of way width of 150 feet plus easements is proposed for the project. Partial control of access (one access per parcel for properties with no other access) is proposed for portions of the project constructed on new location. Fencing will be placed at the right of way line between access points.

#### ALTERNATIVE COMPARISONS

Alternative	B	C	Avoidance
Residential Relocates	32	34	34
Business Relocates	1	0	0
Wetlands Affected (acres)	18.7	16.7	13.4
Stream Impacts (feet)	1,040	2,640	1,980
Section 4(f) apply?	Yes	Yes	No
Adverse effect on Historic Properties?	Yes	Yes	No
Prime/Important Farmland Impacted (acres)	745	1,313	1,259
Receptors Impacted by Traffic Noise	19	10	22
Properties Requiring Site Assessment for Possible Contamination	3	3	3
Total Length (miles)	4.4	4.9	4.5
Right-of-Way Cost (millions)	\$8.459	\$5.851	\$5.887
Construction Cost (millions)	\$19.250	\$20.950	\$20.600
Wetland/Stream Mitigation Cost (millions)	\$1.4333	\$2.0339	\$1.5675
Total Cost (millions)	\$29.142	\$25.835	\$28.055

## **Other Required Authorizations**

This notice and all applicable application materials are being forwarded to the appropriate State agencies for review. The Corps will generally not make a final permit decision until the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ) issues, denies, or waives State certification required by Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (PL 92-500). The receipt of the application and this public notice in the NCDWQ Central Office in Raleigh serves as application to the NCDWQ for certification. A waiver will be deemed to occur if the NCDWQ fails to act on this request for certification within sixty days of the date of the receipt of this notice in the NCDWQ Central Office. Additional information regarding the Clean Water Act certification may be reviewed at the NCDWQ Central Office, Transportation Permitting Unit, 2321 Crabtree Boulevard, Raleigh, North Carolina 27604-2260. All persons desiring to make comments regarding the application for certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act should do so in writing delivered to the North Carolina Division of Water Quality (NCDWQ), 1650 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-1650 Attention: Mr. John Hennessy by February 14, 2007.

## **Essential Fish Habitat**

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Corps' initial determination is that the proposed project will not adversely impact EFH or associated fisheries managed by the South Atlantic or Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Councils or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

## **Cultural Resources**

The Corps has consulted the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places and has determined that registered properties, or properties listed as being eligible for inclusion therein are located within the project area and/or will be affected by the proposed work. Three properties were identified within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) that are considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP): Ricks-Boseman Farm, Spruill-Easley House, and Jeffreys School. These historic resources are described below.

### **Historic Resource Impacts**

Historic Feature	Alternate B	Alternate C	Avoidance Alternate
Ricks-Boseman Farm	AE	AE	NAE
Spruill-Easley House	AE	AE	NAE
Jeffreys School	AE	AE	NAE

AE = Adverse Effect, NAE = No Adverse Effect, NE = No Effect

### **Endangered Species**

The Corps has reviewed the project area, examined all information provided by the applicant, consulted the latest North Carolina Natural Heritage Database and reviewed comments from US Fish and Wildlife Service. Based on available information, the Corps has determined pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), that the proposed project is not likely to adversely affect federally listed endangered or threatened species or their formally designated critical habitat. According to the USFWS letter dated October 18, 2006, the Service believes that the requirements of section 7 (a)(2) of the ESA have been satisfied.

### **Evaluation**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values (in accordance with Executive Order 11988), land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving the discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines.

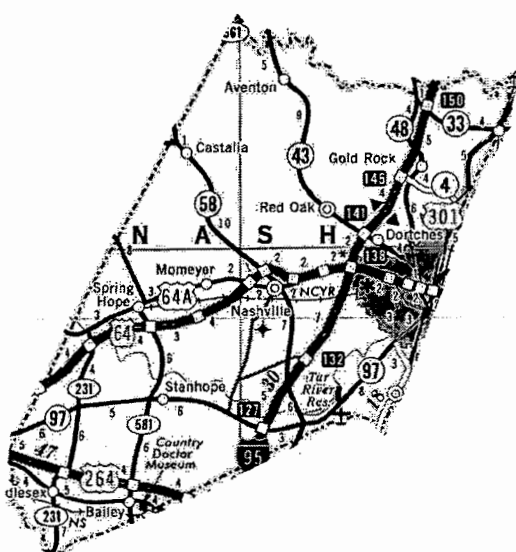
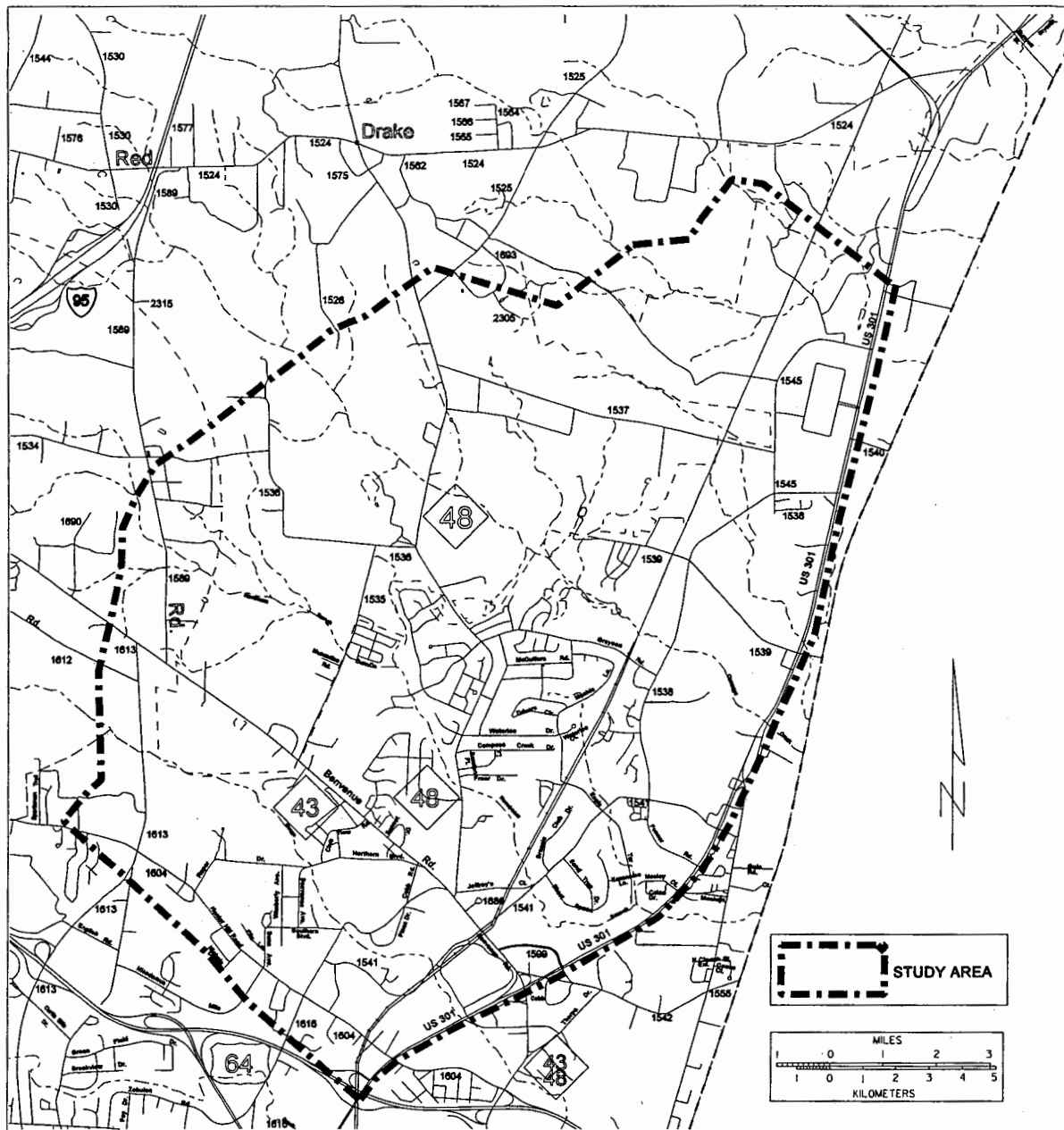
### **Commenting Information**

In order to more fully integrate Section 404 permit requirements with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and to give careful consideration to our required public interest review and 404 (b)(1) compliance determination, the Corps of Engineers is soliciting public comment on the merits of the proposal and on the alternatives evaluated in the EA. At the close of this comment period, the District Engineer will evaluate and consider the comments received as well as the expected adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed road construction to select the least environmentally damaging, practicable alternative (LEDPA). The District Engineer is not authorizing construction of the R-2823 at this time. A final Department of the Army permit could be issued, if at all, only

after our review process is complete, impacts to the aquatic environment have been minimized to the maximum extent practicable, and a compensatory mitigation plan has been approved.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider the application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Requests for a public hearing shall be granted, unless the District Engineer determines that the issues raised are insubstantial or there is otherwise no valid interest to be served by a hearing.

Written comments pertinent to the proposed work, as outlined above, will be received by the Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, until 5pm, February 20, 2007. Comments should be submitted to US Army Corps of Engineer, attn: William Wescott Post Office Box 1000, Washington, NC 27889.



**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

**PROJECT DEVELOPMENT AND  
ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS BRANCH**

**ROCKY MOUNT NORTHERN CONNECTOR**

**FROM SR 1604 (HUNTER HILL RD)**

**TO US 301**

**NASH COUNTY**

**TIP PROJECT R-2823**

**FIGURE 1**

